though a firm assessment of its implications may not be feasible from the limited information available, artificially induced melting of snow by sprinkling ash over the glaciers may not generate floods due to usually low melting rate in such cases.

Inter-State Water Disputes

296. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that existing rules are inadequate to settle the river water disputes;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several disputes regarding sharing of river waters are pending;

(d) if so, what are those disputes together with the names of the State where these disputes exist; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to settle these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The existing legal instrument to settle river water dispute is the Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) act 1956. The Inter-State Water Disputes *viz.* Ravi-Beas Water Dispute between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and the Cauvery Water Disputes between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of this Act for adjudication in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. Ravi-Beas Wates Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Party States and the Central Government have sought explanation/ guidance under Section 5(3) of the Act. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has pased in interim order on June 25, 1991.

Keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission on Centre-State Relations (Sarkaria Commission), certain modifications in the ISWD Act, 1956 are felt necessary and to that effect the Inter-

State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7.3.2001.

Assistance to meet the expenditure for Stopping Sea Erosion

297. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: WiD the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended any financial assistance to Kerala to prevent sea erosion during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to protect the coast-line natural boundary from sea erosion;

(d) whether it is a fact that State Government's are unable to meet the entire amount of expenditure for the same;

(e) whether Government would consider to evolve any joint venture for the protection of coast-line boundary with the help of State Government; and

(f) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present, two schemes are under consideration of Government of India for protection of coast-line from sea erosion in maritime States. One is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), namely, "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" for providing central assistance to maritime States for protection of critical reaches of coastal areas from sea erosion and also river erosion. The other one is Consolidated National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) for protection of vulnerable coastal reaches from sea erosion in respective States, to be posed for external funding. This Project is still in the formulation stage.

(d) Yes, Sir. State Governments have expressed difficulty in